

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HEALTH DISTRICTS RESPOND TO POSITIVE SCREENING SIGNALS FOR ANTHRAX  
FROM DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SITES**

(Richmond, Va.)—The Fairfax and Arlington health districts in coordination with federal, state, and local officials are responding to positive screening signals for *Bacillus anthracis*, the agent that causes anthrax, detected by two Department of Defense air sampling sensors.

“These results are considered preliminary and additional confirmatory testing is underway,” said State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H. The sensors were located in mail facilities at the Pentagon and an office building in Fairfax County.

At this time, it appears the general public is not at risk of exposure. Health officials have spoken with employees and occupants from both of the facilities.

Health officials are monitoring the situation and will provide more information as it becomes available. Local health departments are coordinating and disseminating information to medical providers throughout the region so that they may respond appropriately to any questions or concerns from these employees.

“We understand that people will be concerned about this situation, and we are doing everything we can to respond appropriately,” said Dr. Stroube.

Anthrax is a disease caused by bacteria that create spores. People can get sick when spores enter the body. Spores can enter the body in different ways and cause different types of illness. When the spores enter through a cut or a sore, a skin infection can occur. When the spores are breathed in, they may cause serious breathing problems.

For more information about anthrax, log on to [http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/EPR/Agents\\_Biological\\_Anthrax.asp](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/EPR/Agents_Biological_Anthrax.asp) In addition, you can log onto the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/anthrax/needtoknow.asp>.

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